

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions:

Claim 1 (Currently amended): An interdental brush comprising:

a handle;

a brush body;

a brush support for holding the brush body;

an arm connected at one end to ~~one side of~~ the handle and hingedly connected at the other end to ~~one a lower portion of the brush support on a first~~ side of the brush support; and

an operating portion hingedly connected to an upper portion of the brush support on a second side of the brush support and movably slideably connected to the handle for movement in a longitudinal direction of the handle for rotating the brush support relative to the handle in a range of about 90 degrees.

Claim 2 (Cancelled).

Claim 3 (Currently amended): The interdental brush according to claim 1, including a mechanism formed on the handle and cooperating with the operating portion for moving the brush support between a first and second position and holding the brush support at either position.

Claim 4 (Currently amended): An interdental brush according to claim 1 or 3, including a removable cap comprising a cap body which covers the brush body and a cap base which connects to the brush support, and

the cap body and the cap base having an opening which allows capping the brush body and brush support.

Claim 5 (Currently amended): The interdental brush according to claim [[1,]] 4,

wherein the friction between the operating portion and the handle is sufficiently low to permit movement of the operating portion relative to the handle, but sufficiently high to prevent unwanted movement of the brush body during use of the interdental brush.

Claim 6 (Currently amended): The interdental brush of claim [[5,]] 4,

wherein the opening in the cap allows capping the brush body and brush support from the side.

Claim 7 (Currently amended): The interdental brush of claim [[5,]] 4,

wherein the cap can be attached to the interdental brush regardless of the angle position of the brush support.

Claims 8-10 (Cancelled)

Claim 11 (Currently amended): An interdental brush having a brush body and a handle member, the handle member comprising:

a handle having a first side and a second side;

an arm extending in a longitudinal direction from one end the first side of the handle along the length of the handle and having a tip;

a brush support that holds the brush body; body, the brush support including an upper end, a lower end, a first side, and a second side;

a first hinge that connects the tip of the arm and the first side of the brush support at the lower one end of the brush support in a freely rotating manner;

an operating portion situated in a position-changeable manner at the other end second side of the handle and slidable longitudinally slideable along the length a portion of the handle, the operating portion having a tip; and

a second hinge that connects the tip of the operating portion and the second side of the brush support at the upper other end of the brush support in a freely rotating manner,

wherein changing a longitudinal position of the operating portion along the handle's length relative to the handle enables a user to rotate the brush body relative to the handle.

Claim 12 (Currently amended): The interdental brush of claim 11,

wherein a pair of slide guides are provided along the length of the handle and the operating portion ~~has elements which fit~~ includes at least one stop that fits into and slide slides within the slide guides, and

wherein ~~the~~ at least one stop is provided to control limits movement of the operating portion within the guides and ~~the changing a position of~~ wherein the operating portion is ~~done by~~ sliding. slideable along the length of the handle.

Claim 13 (Withdrawn): The interdental brush of claim 11,

wherein the operating portion and handle have a plurality of cooperating protrusions and recesses that are located at intervals along the length of the handle and that allow the operating portion to be moved to these locations along the length of the handle and thereby to move the brush body through a plurality of positions.

Claim 14 (New): The interdental brush of claim 4, wherein the cap includes one of a protrusion and a recess, and the brush support includes the other of a protrusion and a recess, and wherein the cap is removably coupled to the brush support by engaging the protrusion with the recess.

Claim 15 (New): The interdental brush of claim 14, wherein a pair of slide guides are provided along the length of the handle and the operating portion includes at least one stop that fits into and slides within the slide guides, and

wherein the at least one stop limits movement of the operating portion within the guides and wherein the operating portion is slideable along the length of the handle.

Claim 16 (New): The interdental brush of claim 12, wherein the at least one stop includes a pair of longitudinally spaced-apart stops positioned on opposite sides of the operating portion.